

5

10

15

20

30

- 1 -

word processing programs are able to correctly handle the position and order of the bibliographic data when the text data is edited. The writing and editing of the bibliographic data, however, is awkward and time consuming.

Therefore, it was proposed to create a separate database for bibliographic data. When a new reference was inserted in the text document, a reference field pointed to a respective entry in the database. With such a separate database writing and editing the bibliographic data was facilitated, in particular if references were cited several times in the same document. Moreover, the format of the citations was determined centrally in the database and so did not need to be input separately for every new citation.

If the text document was copied to a different storage medium, for example the disk memory of a laptop computer, however, the problem arose that the bibliographic database, which was stored as a separate data file was not available on the storage medium, on which the text document had been copied. Therefore, the user of the laptop computer was able to edit the text data, but not the bibliographic data.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In accordance with the present invention the above problem has been solved by a method of creating a reference database for a computer-readable document, comprising entering inputted reference data into the database, and storing the reference database with other data of the computer-readable document, e.g. text data, in a single data file, sometimes called a document file.

Since the document file contains the text data and the reference data in a single file, the user can

reference database for a computer-readable document,
the computer program comprising program code adapted
for entering inputted reference data into the database,
and for storing the reference database together with
5 other data of the computer-readable document in a
single data file.

This program code may be embodied in any form of a
computer program product. A computer program product
comprises a medium configured to store or transport
10 computer-readable code, or in which computer-readable
code may be embedded. Some examples of computer
program products are CD-ROM discs, ROM cards, floppy
discs, magnetic tapes, computer hard drives, servers on
a network and signals transmitted over a network
15 representing computer-readable program code.

According to one embodiment of the present
invention, one single document file contains both the
computer-readable document and the reference
information, which can be edited by the user. This is
20 in particular advantageous when the text document is
large and contains a large volume of bibliographic data
and when more than one author, e.g. at remote
locations, work on the same text document. Moreover,
the reference data can be exchanged or synchronized
25 easily with local or external databases, for example
via the Internet.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1A is a flow chart illustrating the
30 generation of a reference database of a text document
containing bibliographic data according to the present
invention.

Figure 1B is a flow chart illustrating the editing
operation of text and bibliographic data according to
35 the present invention.

Figure 2 is a schematic illustration of a computer system for carrying out the present invention.

Figure 3A is a high-level block diagram where the computer system of Figure 2 is distributed among a plurality of devices that are interconnected via a network.

Figure 3B is a high-level block diagram where the computer system of Figure 2 is distributed among a plurality of devices, and the method of this invention is transferred from a memory in a first device to a memory in a second device.

Figure 4 is a schematic illustration of a table containing bibliographic data of the reference database according to the present invention.

Figure 5 is an illustration of the user dialogue display window for inputting and/or editing a bibliographic data according to the present invention.

Figure 6 is a schematic representation of a text document file according to the present invention.

Figure 7 is a flow chart illustrating the process of synchronizing the document database with another data source.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Figure 1A is a process flow diagram illustrating one embodiment of a method 100 for creating a reference database for a computer-readable document (Figs. 1A and 2) where, according to the principles of this invention, the reference database is included with the computer-readable document in a single document file 250. The computer-readable document contains at least text data and at least one reference to reference data that is included in the reference database, but it is understood that this document can also contain further data including, for example, graphics, tables,

In operation S1, a user inputs text data using, for example, a keyboard 220 (See Figure 2) of a computer system 200, which is representative of a computer system input device. The text data, however, can be input using another suitable input technique and/or input device, e.g. voice processing or the like.

As those of skill in the art will appreciate, operations S1 and S2 are illustrative only and are not intended to limit the invention to the specific sequence shown. Those of skill will further understand that operations S1 and S2 can be implemented in a wide variety of ways. For example, operation S2, in one embodiment, is part of an event handler and is called when the user takes an action with an input device other than text entry, e.g., selecting a menu item or hitting a predefined function key or a predefined key combination.

The user, therefore, can easily input the bibliographic data without taking care of the format, which is determined by a separate dialogue window (not shown) in one embodiment. In operation S5, a reference field 230 (Fig. 2) is inserted into the text document at the position the user wants to have the bibliographic citation appear, as is illustrated in Figure 2. In operation S6, method 100 checks whether the user has requested to leave the document, or alternatively the user has requested to save the document without leaving the document. If not, method 100 goes back to operation S1. If the user requested to leave the document or save the document, method 100 stores in operation S7 the text data and the bibliographic database in the same data file, i.e., document file 250, on a given storage medium either memory 211 or memory 223, for example, a hard disc of a computer, CD-ROM, or a remote storage medium via the Internet. After storage operation S7, the creation of the text document according to the present invention is completed.

-7-

program product comprises a medium configured to store or transport computer-readable code for method 100 and/or document file 250, or in which computer-readable code for method 100 and/or document file 250 may be embedded. Some examples of computer program products are CD-ROM discs, ROM cards, floppy discs, magnetic tapes, computer hard drives, servers on a network and signals transmitted over a network representing computer-readable program code.

As indicated above, this storage medium may belong to computer system 200 itself as illustrated in Figure 2. However, the storage medium also may be removed from computer system 200, and may be connected to computer system 200 via a data line or a network.

INS. A1 Also, in the context of the present invention, computer system 200 may also comprise a server and a client, which share the above described tasks of the computer system among themselves. For example, method 100 may be stored and executed on the server. However, the user input data may be first received by the client, for example, a laptop or handheld computer, an Internet appliance, or a mobile phone, i.e., operation S1 is carried on the client. The remaining operations can be executed by the server, and then the file saved on either the server or the client device. In view of this disclosure, those of skill in the art can appropriate the tasks between a client and a server to achieve the best performance of method 100 for the given configuration.

More specifically, computer system 200, in one embodiment, can be a portable computer, a workstation, a two-way pager, a cellular telephone, a digital wireless telephone, a personal digital assistant, a server computer, an Internet appliance, or any other device that includes the components shown and that can

09728783-13000

10 Accordingly, a computer memory refers to a volatile memory, a non-volatile memory, or a combination of the two in any one of these devices.

15 Similarly, a computer input unit and a display unit refers to the features providing the required functionality to input the information described herein, and to display the information described herein, respectively, in any one of the aforementioned or equivalent devices.

35 ~~INS. A3~~ In view of this disclosure, method 100 can be implemented in a wide variety of computer system configurations. In addition, method 100 could be

5

10

15

20

35

system 200B. Stored method 100 is transferred, over network 315 to memory 211C in system 200C. In this embodiment, network interfaces 230B and 230C can be analog modems, digital modems, or a network interface card. If modems are used, network 315 includes a communications network, and method 100 is downloaded via the communications network.

A document file 250 created according to the invention is schematically shown in Figure 6. In this embodiment, document file 250 contains data 601 including the reference fields, reference database 602, and also contains further data 603, for example, graphics data. Reference database 602 may contain any sort of related data as bibliographic data, related graphics, headword index, etc.

Figure 4 shows an example of a table structure 400 of the reference information stored in reference database 602. For every different item of reference data, e.g., bibliographic data, that is for every different citation there is provided one row in table 400, i.e., there is one record in reference database 602 for each unique reference in the text document.

In the illustration of Figure 4, the first four fields 401 to 404 of a row contain bits indicating the type of the reference data source, for example journal, book, web-page or conference presentation. The types of reference data sources, however, are not restricted to these four. In view of this disclosure, those of skill in the art can include any number and type of desired reference sources in table 400.

Item 1 of the bibliographic data record in the example of Figure 4 is an article in a journal. Thus, bit 1 in row 1 is set in journal field 401 and bits 2 to 4 in row 1 remain cleared in book field 402, web

page field 403 and conference presentation field 404,
respectively. Fields for the author, the title, the
year, the editor, etc. follow the type of reference
data source fields in each row. In the last field of
5 each row, the number of citations of the article in the
text document is given.

If the user wishes to enter a new item into the
bibliographic reference database, in one embodiment, a
user launches an interactive dialogue window 500 as
10 shown in Figure 5. In launching interactive dialogue
window 500, he or she can select the desired type of
data source, which is then displayed in the dialogue
window. In the example shown in the Figure 5, the user
selected a journal and so "Journal" is displayed in
15 window 500. Only fields of table 400 (Fig. 4), which
relate to the document type "Journal", are displayed in
dialogue window 500, as is illustrated in Figure 5.
The user can then easily enter the bibliographic
information. Upon closing window 500, the entered data
20 is stored in table 400.

INS. AN If he or she cites the same article again, he need
not enter the bibliographic data once more. The user
can simply select the appropriate record in table 400.
The bibliographic data can also be entered or updated
25 from an external database, i.e., imported into
table 400.

It should be acknowledged here that the invention
is not limited to any specific type of document or
reference database. Since text data 601 and reference
30 database 602 are stored in the same document file 250
transfer of this single document file 250 to a
different location is sufficient to enable a user at
that different location to edit the text data as well
as the bibliographic data.

In Figures 2, 3A and 3B, the memory that stores
15 method 100 could also store method 150. However,
instead of repeating the drawings and the description
thereof concerning the execution and storage of
method 100 that description is incorporated herein by
reference with the reference to method 100 being
20 replaced with method 150 in a first embodiment, and
replaced with methods 100 and 150 in a second
embodiment.

- 13 -

5

10

15

- 14 -